

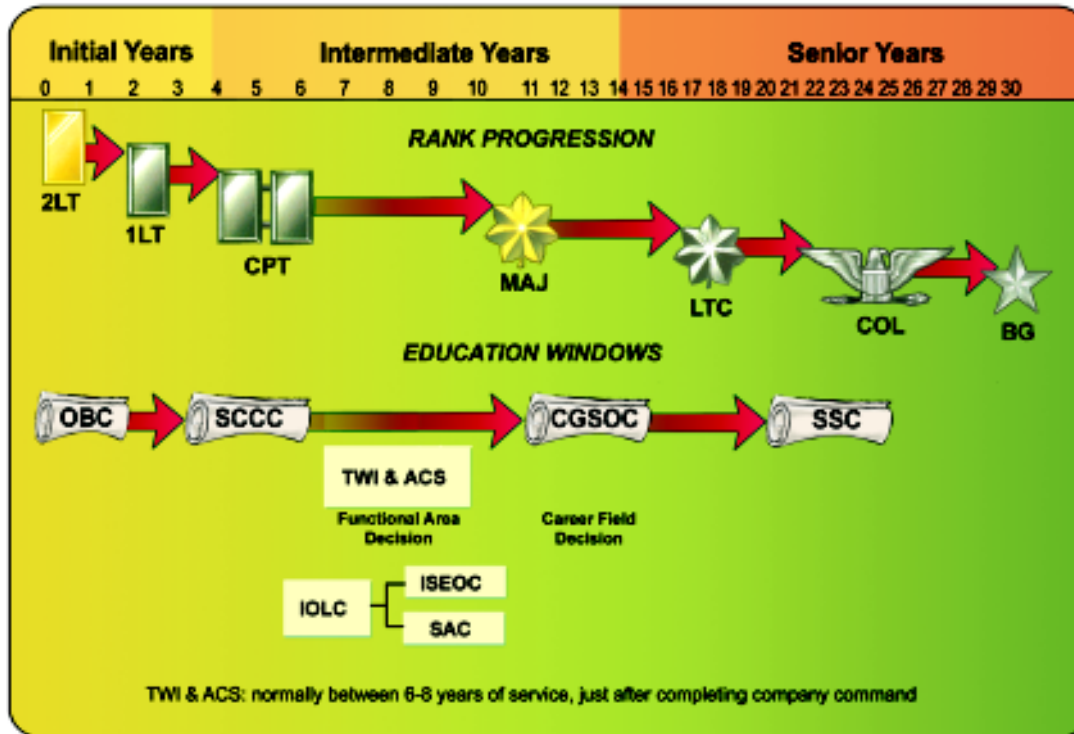
Joint assignments

Signal officers can expect to be considered for joint duty assignments worldwide. Joint experience is important to the Army and is essential to individual officers for their advancement into senior leadership positions.

Special assignments

Signal officers may be assigned to organizations and duties beyond those indicated earlier. These other assignments may include White House Fellows; duty with the National Security Council or United Nations; as well

as Signal branch representatives at allied service Signal schools. The spectrum of possible assignments is large, but these assignments can all be characterized as highly responsible and important, requiring mature, skilled officers.



Windows for a Signal officer's career. Time-frames for promotions shown at top of chart, while windows for attending Signal officer Basic Course, Signal Captain Career Course, Command and General Staff Officer College and Senior Service College are shown below. Between six and eight years of service fall opportunities to attend Training with Industry and advanced civilian schooling. At the fifth year of service, officers make a decision on whether to become Functional Area 53 or 24 officers. If so, they attend Information Operations Leveler Course, then another course depending on FA.

Signal officer training

To accomplish its mission, the Signal Regiment provides newly assigned Signal lieutenants the military leadership and technical training they need to fulfill the communications and operational requirements of their first several assignments.

Most of this training is conducted at the Signal Center, Fort Gordon, Ga., in the Signal Officer Basic Course. SOBC lasts 18 weeks and covers Army common core subjects: military leadership, combat operations, organizational logistics and maintenance support. The course also includes Signal-specific instruction in electronics, information technology, tactical radio operations, tactical satellite, digital group multiplexing and mobile subscriber equipment. In addition to classroom instruction, officers participate in a field training exercise to reinforce Signal platoon leader and S-6 staff officer-related training. The FTX

is a culminating event and "Rite of Passage" tailored to make lieutenants employ the combat and Signal operational concepts and skills they learned throughout SOBC.

Signal officers normally return to the Signal Center for advanced training after they complete their first or second assignment (between 3½ and five years of service). To build on skills learned as lieutenants, officers attend the Signal Captain Career Course. SCCC is taught in two phases: 18 weeks at Fort Gordon and six weeks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. At Fort Gordon, officers receive training that prepares them for command and staff positions at Signal battalion, brigade and higher levels. At Fort Leavenworth, students learn the skills necessary to be successful staff officers.

The Signal Center also provides advanced technical training to officers (captains and majors) and Army

civilians selected to work in the Functional Area 24 (information systems engineering) and FA 53 (information systems management) career fields. Officers selected for an initial FA 24 or FA 53 assignment must attend the Information Operations Leveler Course before attending their career course. The career course for FA 24 officers is the Information Systems Engineering Officers Course, and for FA 53 officers it's the Systems Automation Course.

While attending career courses, officers may achieve their master of science degree in a discipline related to their FA. As officers progress through their careers, they may receive other FA and Army-unique educational opportunities based on their performance of duties, educational background and the Army's needs.

The Army is looking at restructuring the Command and General Staff Officer College to provide resident education for officers selected for